Integrated Pest Management Program
Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture

Fruit Update – 6/27/25

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Sunburn Potential During Heatwaves – University of Maine

Our colleagues at the University of Maine have put together a nice piece on sunburn potential in orchards during heatwaves. Although we are coming out of the super-hot weather now, we still have July and August to get through. Have a read. It is linked below.

Click here to read the article.

Codling Moth:

Codling Moth generally has 2-3 generations in our region, with the latter generations being the most damaging. Management relies on tracking their flights with traps and pheromone lures. The flights help to track egg laying, emergence, and feeding. The date of first capture will serve as your biofix date for the NEWA models. For us, we had a biofix of 6/2 (just a couple of days off from the model's estimation of 5/28). The first insecticide application should be made around 250 degree days after biofix, about 6/18. A second application can be made 10-14 days later if the pressure is heavy. An insecticide targeting the second generation should be made at about 1260 degree days after biofix. We are currently at 454 degree days for central Connecticut, using our biofix of 6/2.

Based on our locations, dates and the models, an application should have been made around 6/18 and then a second should be made within the next 2-6 days. This will be a bit later for those of you in the northern regions and higher elevations. If you did not get that first spray on yet, Cornell recommends a single spray around 360 degree days in situations with less pest pressure. We were at about 370 degree days on 6/23. This application can be made now if you have not done so already. Below are three resources for you to explore. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Cornell Factsheet

NEWA Model

New England Management Guide

Blueberry Maggot:

Blueberry Maggot emergence occurs at 913 degree days. This is predicted to occur from June 30-July 1. The rain we are getting now and over the next few days will serve to moisten and loosen the soil, creating ideal conditions for emergence. Females will first feed and then lay eggs on ripening berries. Once eggs hatch, larvae will begin to feed inside of the fruit. After a few weeks, the larvae will drop down to the soil to pupate and overwinter.

Blueberry Maggot can be monitored using yellow sticky traps with an ammonium lure. Traps should be placed in the center of the bush. The threshold for this pest is 1 per trap.

Management for Blueberry Maggot is comprised of keeping up on the picking, not letting infested fruit drop to the ground, and insecticide sprays. Materials with good to excellent efficacy against Blueberry Maggot are listed below.

Admire Pro (4A) – Good
Asana (3) – Good
Assail (4A) – Excellent
Brigade (3) – Good
Cormoran (4A, 15) – Good
Danitol (3) – Good
Delegate (5) – Good
Diazinon (1B) – Good

Entrust (5) – Good [OMRI]
Exirel (28) – Good
GF-120 Naturalyte Bait (5) – Good [OMRI]
Hero (3) – Good
Imidan (1B) – Excellent
Lannate (1A) – Good
Malathion (1B) – Good
Sivanto Prime (4D) – Good

Strawberries:

Renovation – It's just about that time. June-bearing strawberry renovation needs to occur directly after harvest ends. Renovation helps to maintain orderly plantings and walkways, reduces disease and insect pressures, and stimulates runner and flower bud formation.

1) Mow off the tops of your plants carefully to leave the crowns intact. This will remove and destroy any diseased foliage as well as destroy a habitat for insect pests.
2) Narrow beds with a rototiller/cultivator. This will remove excess runners and vegetative growth as well as improve air flow and light penetration.
3) Thin plants – for older plantings (3+ years) that have gotten too dense. Again, this helps to increase air flow and light penetration.
4) Fertilize – you want to focus on applying enough nitrogen directly after renovation, 30-50 lbs/acre. A second application should be made in late August, 30-40 lbs/acre. If you have done a soil or foliar test, you may also need to apply other nutrients at this time. Please reach out if you need a recommendation for materials to apply, organic or conventional.
5) Weed Management – Immediately after mowing, pre-emergent can be used to keep weed pressure down. Organic growers will need to utilize contact herbicides. Caution should be taken not to hit newly renovated pants. Hand cultivation can continue as the season progresses to avoid competition with the newly renovated plants. For a list of materials please refer to the New England Small Fruit Management Guide.
6) Irrigation – Plants need a steady source of water throughout this process and afterwards. 1-2" of water per week is sufficient. This will help plants to develop, acquire nutrients, and will set you up nicely for next year.

Reminders:

- **Tissue samples** can be taken for most of your fruit crops (besides grapes) and submitted to the UConn SNAL lab. These results should be used in tandem with your soil tests to determine corrective action. About 100 of the most recently matured leaves should be collected. Collected eaves should be from the same variety.
- **Return Bloom Sprays** can be applied now though early July for varieties that tend to bear biennially.
- **No fertilization into July.** If you have fertilizer to apply to your small or tree fruit, try to get those on before we get too far into July. Later applications of nitrogen in particular will slow the plant's shift to dormancy, increasing the likelihood for winter injury.
- **Nematodes for Plum Curculio Control.** We have about 6 farms that will be applying entomopathogenic nematodes for Plum Curculio control. The nematodes will need to go out very soon. I will keep you posted on the outcome for those farms trying out the nematodes this year.
